

RemarksClaim Objections

The examiner issued a number of objections to the claims. The amendments are believed to overcome the objections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The examiner rejected claim 176 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

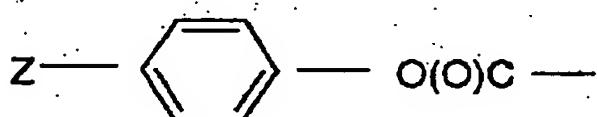
Claim 176 has been canceled. The examiner also rejected claims 174, 186, 199, and 208-209 as indefinite for several reasons. Claim 174 has been canceled. The amendments are believed to overcome the remaining rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The examiner withdrew a number of rejections and maintained a number of rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Claims 174 and 175 have been canceled. The examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of anticipation of claim 209 or claims depending therefrom.

In order to establish a case of *prima facie* anticipation, the examiner must establish that a prior art reference discloses every limitation of the claims either explicitly or inherently. *Atlas Powder Co. v. Ireco Inc.*, 190 F.3d 1342, 1346, 51 USPQ2d 1943, 1945 (Fed. Cir. 1999). The examiner has not met this burden with respect to claim 209.

Claim 209 requires that "one or more members selected from the group consisting of X and Y ha[s] the following structure:

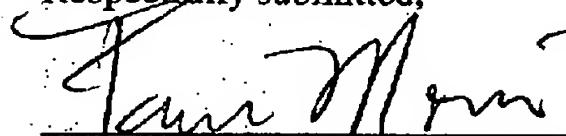


The examiner has not pointed to a teaching of this element of claim 209 in any of the references over which claim 209 is rejected, namely: Meyer, Wellinghoff, (WO 98/13008), Wellinghoff (J. Den. Res. 1997, O. 279 (abstract 2127), vol. 76); Norling, or Rawls.

CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,



Paula D. Morris, Registration No. 31,516
Morris & Amatong, P.C.
10260 Westheimer, Suite 360
Houston, Texas 77042
Telephone: (713) 334-5151
Facsimile: (713) 334-5157

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT